

# The

# Willows

# Whisper

## Christmas Edition

Twas the Night Before Christmas

by Clement C. Moore

...And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof  
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.  
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,  
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.

He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,  
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot.  
A bundle of Toys he had flung on his back,  
And he looked like a peddler, just opening his pack.

His eyes-how they twinkled! His dimples how merry!  
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!  
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,  
And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow...

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Care  
Limited | Exceptional  
Excellence



**3ab**  
Care  
Limited  
Exceptional Excellence  
\*\*\*\*\*



## Christmas traditions from home

There are as many Christmas traditions as people celebrating them!

In some European countries, before Christmas dinner, children go outside and gaze up to the sky to find the first glittering star. It is believed to be the star of Bethlehem.

This month we spoke to members of The Willows Family, and asked them to share their own Christmas traditions with us.....

### Caroline



*For most people in Zimbabwe, Christmas day starts with a Church service. After the Church service, everyone has a party in their home and then go from house to house, visiting all their family and friends on the way. Sometimes, this can take up the rest of the day! At every house we have something to eat, exchange presents and enjoy the party and we do a great deal of dancing!*

*The special food eaten at Christmas in Zimbabwe is Chicken with rice and plenty of Coleslaw!*

*The Christmas Cards that are used in Zimbabwe sometimes have African pictures on them, such as wild animals, but most are now imported, so they have the traditional 'snow scenes' and pictures of the Christmas story on them.*

### Ren



*In Hungary, Christmas Eve is very important and is called 'Szent-este' which means Holy Evening. People spend the evening with their family and decorate the Christmas Tree. Sometimes only the adults decorate the tree (without the children there), so when children come in and see the tree, it's a great surprise and they are told that angels brought the tree for them! The main Christmas meal, which is also eaten on Christmas Eve, consists of any freshwater fish (often fish soup called 'Halászlé').*

*Christmas holidays are the time to visit families and enjoy a variety of traditional food together. The Midnight Mass service is very popular in Hungary. Most people go to Church after their Christmas meal.*

*On Christmas Eve children also hope that they will be left some presents under the Christmas Tree. They're told that the presents are brought by Jesus. Children wait outside the room where the tree is and when they hear bells ringing, they can enter, and the presents await them under the Christmas tree. That's how I remember it! My mother would send my brother and myself for a long walk with my dad, which I used to love. In the meantime my mom would very quickly decorate the Christmas tree and put presents under it. Then my dad and us would come back home to ask if 'baby Jesus has been yet' Our mom would say that she needed to check on it and open the door where the Christmas tree was. She would then ring the bell...best memory ever!*



## Yvonne



*When I was a little girl, every Christmas I would get one of my mum's nylon stockings filled with goodies, a couple of shiny old pennies, an apple, an orange, some nuts and a small presents that would fit in a stocking.*

*The days were spent between both grandparents.*

*There would be three sittings for a lovely tea; children first, men second and ladies third.*

*After that we played games; bingo, charades or gather around the piano singing carols.*

## Alina



*In Ukraine, Advent is the beginning of Christmas Time. It's a time when people try to be peaceful and remember the real reason for Christmas. Christmas Day is most celebrated during Christmas holidays and is often a 'fasting day' meaning that some people don't eat anything until Christmas Supper. It's traditional that no food is eaten until the first star is seen in the sky! Looking for the first star is also a reminder of the Wisemen who followed a star to visit Jesus.*

*On the table there are 12 dishes - they are meant to give you good luck for the next 12 months.*

*In my home all my family, young and old, gather around the table to enjoy and share the food. We give our Christmas presents on New Year! It is because in older times Christmas used to be celebrated around 7<sup>th</sup> January.*

## Robert



*Slovak households typically have an Advent wreath with four candles, and each Sunday leading up to Christmas, a candle is lit to mark the passing of time. Families also enjoy baking traditional Christmas treats like honey-spice cookies, called "medovníky," and "koleáče," which are filled pastries. Traditionally Christmas presents are given on Christmas Eve.*

# Does Santa exist?

*By Ed Ackroyd*

**Being a child gives us freedom of choice of how we perceive the world around us.**

**We believe in stories told to us for years, some of these we carry with us and onto our own families for our children, to then also believe in.**

**I am going to tell you a very memorable story from my childhood which I still hold very dear.**

**As a child I always was very excited around the Christmas period. This was mostly because my father used to bring a freshly cut Christmas tree from the forest and my mother and I enjoyed ourselves decorating it in handmade paper chains, Santa's heads made of hollow eggshells, and little crafty items made of fresh straw...**



Having a mother born in 1926 had a great deal of influence on how we celebrated our Christmas and what we believed were our traditions.

I grew to the age when I started asking serious questions, I wanted to meet Santa myself.

From my mother's description he was a grumpy old man, eager to smack our legs with a willow twig for being naughty rather than give us a present. That is until my brother, who was 18 years my senior, came



home for Christmas carrying a big yellow teddy in his hand.

The story behind this moment was that he had just met Santa at the edge of the village, sitting on the top of his sleighs smoking a cigarette. Santa had clearly got lost in that snowy weather and was worried that he won't be able to deliver his last present to a little girl called Edwina.

So, it happens my brother was passing by and gladly offered his help with such an important delivery. I never asked what happened to poor Santa and his vehicle half buried in snow... the yellow Teddy took all my attention! I didn't doubt the event might never have taken place as the snow in Poland can be so deep, it would make a little village road completely disappear! Besides I had my Teddy as a 'living proof' that Santa exists...



## Meet with the Manager

Yvonne is available for a chat on  
Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2024  
between 7:30am and 8:30am.

If you would like to book a time slot,  
please call the Home on 01509 650559.



Until we meet again.....

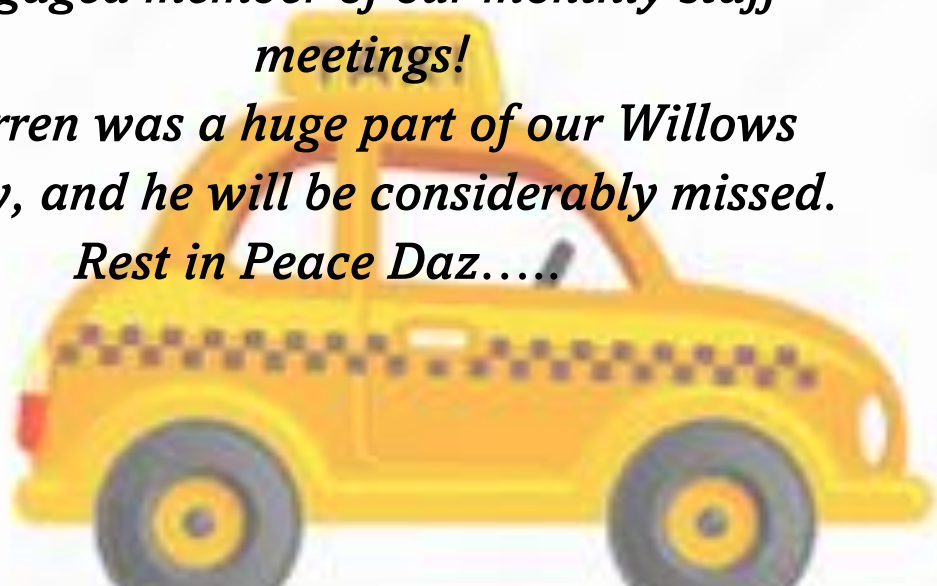
### Darren Hurst

*Family and friends will remember him as  
'Daz'.*

*Always cheerful and smiley, and the most  
engaged member of our monthly staff  
meetings!*

*Darren was a huge part of our Willows  
Family, and he will be considerably missed.*

*Rest in Peace Daz.....*



# Our Birthday Wishes for December

*Happy Birthday and many more to:*



*Chris*



*John*



*Priya*



*Sheila*



Excellent!  
And now the  
bottom line...



**HO  
HO HO  
HA HA HA  
HEH HEH HEH HEH  
HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE**

## The 3ab Care Referral Program



Do you know someone seeking a Care Home for a loved one? If you refer a resident, who comes to live at The Willows, you can receive a reward!

We are offering:

£250 vouchers if the resident comes to stay with us on a respite stay

Or

£500 vouchers if the resident you refer comes to our Home permanently.

If you would like more information, please speak to Priya Patel or Yvonne Manton.

Contact us on: 01509 650 559

Email: [the.willows@3abcare.co.uk](mailto:the.willows@3abcare.co.uk)

*Jenny Mabe became a part of the Willows Family in 2020, when she chose The Willows to care for her Mum. This month, Jenny Mabe was awarded her 'Referral vouchers', after referring a relative to The Willows, 4 years later!!*



*Happy Christmas Shopping Jenny!*



# MERRY CHRISTMAS

K F A M I L Y T R N K B J L H  
Y M U T J C O R B S X G O J H  
Y U P L R C A R O L S I Y I F  
Y C M R R E Q N W E E V E N N  
L H F E E P E H D N D I J G O  
S R B T D S C S S Y W N G L R  
Y I Q M T Y E R C M C G S E T  
U S T O C K I N G S J A E I H  
U T L I G H T S T G S D N W P  
L M F L I O V S M S N J S E O  
K A V F X B I Z G I I G D T L  
B S R E B Z S L E I G H X C E  
F K Y O L Q H R N S N O W R U  
X N L R J F Z C D N D E X X V  
H S T A R W S A N T A T L V M

BOW	FAMILY	NORTH POLE	SNOW
CANDY CANE	GIVING	PRESENTS	STAR
CAROLS	JINGLE	REINDEER	STOCKINGS
CHRISTMAS	JOY	SANTA	TREES
ELF	LIGHTS	SLEIGH	



## December Events at The Willows

<b>Wed 4<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	Boogie Beatz with Hannah	3pm – 4pm
<b>Thu 5<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	Barrow Ukuleles - Christmas show	3pm – 4pm
<b>Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	Melody Flynte - Christmas show	3pm – 4pm
<b>Tue 10<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	Christmas Jumper Day – Staff singing carols for the Residents	
<b>Thu 12<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	Staff Christmas Dinner	8pm
<b>Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	Eleanor Matley - Christmas Special	3pm – 4pm
<b>Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	Christmas Fayre at The Willows	10:30am – 1:30pm
<b>Tue 17<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	Christmas Carols by Bowman Academy Christmas Choir	2:30pm – 3pm
<b>Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec</b>	Ponies Christmas Visit/ Residents' Christmas party	3pm 4pm – 5pm
<b>Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec</b>	Acoustic guitar by Howard Coleman	3pm
<b>Tue 24<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	Christmas Church Service	3pm – 4pm
<b>Wed 25<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	Visit from Santa	11am – 12am



**Dear Relatives and Friends,**



**Please can we remind everyone to label any personal items/clothing that you gift to your loved ones over the Christmas period.**

**Many Thanks**

**May this Christmas you celebrate God's love  
With the company of family and friends,  
Make your Christmas awesome,  
Do make it more grand,  
Merry Christmas!**



# Messages for our Staff.....

**‘.....Thank you for all the lovely care and effort shown to Darren during his six years he was a resident. Darren thought of The Willows as his home....’**

**‘Would you please pass on my thanks to your wonderful staff for the amazing care and kindness shown to my mum, and my sister and I, during mum’s brief stay.**

**They made a really difficult time so much more bearable and we will always be grateful to them.’**

# CHRISTMAS

## at The Willows

SATURDAY 14TH DECEMBER, 11:30AM-1:30PM  
The Willows Care Home, 14 The Lant, LE12 9PD

**We would love you to join us** for  
a cup of hot chocolate and many delicious mince pies!

To uphold the **CHRISTMAS SPIRIT**,  
please feel free to dress up in your **best Christmas outfit!**

### STALLS

Tombola table  
Fabulous home-made cakes  
'Loaded' cobs  
Heart-warming seasonal drinks  
Christmas hamper  
Lucky dip  
And many more!

### BREAKING NEWS!!!

Interrupting his busy schedule, Santa will be present – why not bring the kids along?

